

**Greysteel**

Village Plan

March 2024

**Contents**

[1.0 Introduction 3](#_Toc161963364)

[2.0 Strategic Context 5](#_Toc161963365)

[3.0 Socio-Economic Profile 8](#_Toc161963366)

[4.0 Community Engagement 11](#_Toc161963367)

[5.0 Key Findings 13](#_Toc161963368)

[6.0 Action Plan 18](#_Toc161963369)

[7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan 20](#_Toc161963370)

# A white background with black dots Description automatically generated1.0 Introduction

Greysteel is a picturesque village with stunning views of Lough Foyle. Located in County Derry/Londonderry, the village is surrounded by stunning natural landscapes and within easy reach of iconic attractions such as the Giant's Causeway and the Causeway Coastal Route.

Located conveniently to major roadways, such as the A2 road, which is also known as the Causeway Coastal Route, Greysteel benefits from a direct route to Limavady and Coleraine. Additionally, the A5 road intersects the village, offering connectivity to inland areas. Public transportation options, including bus services, enhance accessibility and allow individuals to travel to, from, and within Greysteel, and to neighbouring towns and cities.

An aerial view of a city

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Figure 1: Aerial View of Greysteel Village, (Source: Google Earth)

The village boasts a vibrant array of community projects centred around The Vale Centre, serving as a bustling community hub that caters to diverse interests. Residents can participate in walking activities, Skills School NI offers inclusive sports programmes for children of all abilities, soccer training is available with the Steven Gerrard Academy, there are dance and drama programmes, and even American football training. Kids Inn afterschool clubs provide additional enrichment opportunities, while Quinn Strength and Conditioning offers fitness programmes and community initiatives such as the Sober 6 Challenge. The Centre also hosts a Youth Club, fostering social connections and engagement among young residents.

A green building with a door

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Figure 2: The Vale Centre

Greysteel Community Association provides a range of practical support and activities to all members of the community. Over the years, the Association has played a pivotal role in facilitating numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing community well-being, including the establishment of a weekly Over 65s Luncheon Club, Community Bingo, and Tea Dances to foster social connections and combat isolation among older residents. The Association also offers drama and music classes, Irish dancing, and youth diversionary programmes to engage individuals of all ages and interests.

A field with a dirt road and a rainbow in the sky

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Figure 3: St Mary’s Faughanvale GAC

St Mary's Faughanvale Gaelic Athletic Club enriches the community with its stunning pitch and Clubhouse, hosting Gaelic games and various community outreach programmes such as school club links, tea dances (funded by the Public Health Agency), bingo, coaching courses, and nursery and primary school programmes, enhancing well-being and supporting community cohesion.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Assets** | **Community Groups** |
| The Vale Centre (indoor hall/ 3G pitch)  St Mary’s Faughanvale GAC  Faughanvale Primary School  New Play Park  Proximity to Lough Foyle  Proximity to City of Derry Airport | Greysteel Community Enterprise  Greysteel Community Association  Faughanvale Community Project  Star of the Sea Boxing Club  Greysteel Community Playgroup  Kids Inn After School Club  Skill School |

Table 1: Summary of Key Assets and Community Groups Located in Greysteel

# 2.0 Strategic Context

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Description automatically generated2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Plan 2017-2030**

At its core, community planning aims to develop a holistic, forward-looking strategy for the area. This involves a thorough examination of its requirements, priorities, and opportunities, integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. A Community Plan aims to unite stakeholders and encourage collaborative endeavours to realise a collectively envisioned future.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Plan serves as the leading vision for steering the area towards a better future. Through the Community Plan, the Council aspires to instigate positive change, foster sustainable development, and elevate community well-being.

Embracing inclusivity, the Community Plan is designed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the whole community, positioning the area on a trajectory towards a prosperous, harmonious, and resilient future. It facilitates coordinated efforts to achieve improved outcomes in health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Operating on both a Council-wide scale and within local and neighbourhood contexts, the Plan is a collaborative initiative developed in close partnership with key stakeholders. Extensive engagement with local communities, groups, and individuals ensures the Community Plan is reflective of the community’s diverse perspectives and tailored to address the unique needs of the area.

The Community Plan has three overarching, long-term strategic Population Outcomes, along with 12 Intermediate Outcomes in-line with the proposed Programme for Government, outlined below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A Healthy**  **Safe Community** | **A Sustainable**  **Accessible Environment** | **A Thriving**  **Economy** |
| Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected, and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone to live well together. | Individuals will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable, and accessible environment, with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections. | Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. |

|  |
| --- |
| **A Healthy Safe Community** |
| * **Outcome 1:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing. * **Outcome 2:** Our children and young people will have the very best start in life. * **Outcome 3:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens can live independently, as far as possible, and access support services when they need it. * **Outcome 4:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe. * **Outcome 5:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships. |

|  |
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| **A Sustainable Accessible Environment** |
| * **Outcome 6:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes. * **Outcome 7:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections. * **Outcome 8:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a sustainably managed natural and built environment. |

|  |
| --- |
| **A Thriving Economy** |
| * **Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy. * **Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses. * **Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation. * **Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens area will be knowledgeable and skilled. |

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for addressing multifaceted needs, ranging from health and education, to housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment. This scope aligns with the objectives of the Village Plan, which is specifically tailored to address the unique characteristics and requirements of the individual villages within the Causeway Coast & Glens area. By strategically aligning these plans, we can create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that maximises resources, ensures efficient coordination, and facilitates targeted interventions at both the regional and local level.

**The Village Plan contributes to each of the three strategic Population Outcomes as follows:**

**A Healthy Safe Community**

The Village Plan is designed to foster a healthy, connected, and safe community that prioritises the well-being of residents. Through initiatives focused on public health, recreational spaces, and community programmes, the Village Plan aims to create an environment that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone in living well together.

Health and safety measures, including accessible healthcare facilities, community policing, and awareness campaigns will be integral components. By emphasising mental and physical health, fostering social connections, and implementing safety measures, the Village Plan contributes to building a community that is not only physically secure but also emotionally and socially supportive.

**A Sustainable Accessible Environment**

The Village Plan places a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, accessible environment that values and benefits from diversity. This includes careful consideration of environmental conservation, green spaces, and infrastructure that supports accessibility for all residents. Sustainable development practices, such as energy-efficient technologies and waste reduction initiatives, will be incorporated.

The Plan envisions an environment where diverse ecosystems thrive alongside well-planned infrastructure that encourages connectivity. By investing in accessible public spaces, efficient transport systems, and environmentally friendly practices, the Village Plan aims to create an inclusive and sustainable environment that residents can value and benefit from.

**A Thriving Economy**

To contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, the Village Plan adopts a holistic approach centred on growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. Economic development strategies will be integrated to support local businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new investments. Educational programmes and initiatives that foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning will be promoted.

The Plan envisions a community where economic opportunities abound, creating a vibrant and dynamic local economy. By facilitating an environment that encourages business growth, job creation, and skill development, the Village Plan aims to contribute to the development of a thriving community with a robust and sustainable economy.

The Village Plan, being an integral part of the broader Community Plan, inherits the overarching goals and principles, tailoring them to the distinctive nuances of each village. Through collaborative efforts and shared objectives, the implementation of the Village Plan becomes an integral part of the larger narrative outlined in the Community Plan, fostering a sense of unity and purpose.

In conclusion, the strategic alignment of the Village Plan with the Community Plan presents a unique opportunity for collaborative development. By leveraging the strengths of both plans, we not only enhance the overall impact on the community but also create a roadmap that guides sustainable development, fosters community resilience, and promotes a harmonious future for the Causeway Coast & Glens area. This strategic integration will ensure that our efforts are coordinated, targeted, and collectively directed towards a shared vision of prosperity and well-being.

**2.2 Wider Strategic Alignment**

The implementation of the key actions contained within this Village Plan also represents an alignment with wider public sector policy:

| **Theme** | **Policy Alignment** |
| --- | --- |
| **Community Collaboration** | * PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) * Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office) |
| **Communication** | * PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) * Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office) |
| **Community Pride** | * PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) * Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office) |
| **Maximising Potential of Natural Assets** | * Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan (Draft, Department for the Economy) |
| **Signage** | * Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure) |
| **Cultural Awareness** | * PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) * Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office) |
| **Play Park** | * Causeway Coast and Glens Council Play Investment Strategy |
| **Health & Wellbeing** | * Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031 (Department of Justice) |
| **Sustaining Local**  **Childcare Provision** | * Northern Ireland Children and Young People’s Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Department of Education) * Local Assessment of Need 2023 – Causeway Coast & Glens (Education Authority) |
| **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour** | * Community Safety Framework (Department of Justice) |

**2.3 Local Community Groups**

Local community groups will play a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of this Village Plan. These grassroots organisations are the heartbeat of the community, possessing an intimate understanding of needs, aspirations, and challenges. By actively engaging with and involving these groups in the planning and execution phases, the Village Plan gains valuable allies in its mission to create positive and lasting change.

First and foremost, local community groups serve as conduits of local knowledge and expertise. They have established trust and connections within the community, making them adept at identifying nuanced issues and opportunities that may not be immediately apparent. This grassroots insight is invaluable in crafting a Village Plan that is not only comprehensive but also tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Moreover, community groups bring a wealth of social capital to the table. Their established networks and relationships within the community facilitate effective communication and outreach. This social fabric enhances the Plan's reach, ensuring it resonates with a broad cross-section of the population. Through collaborative efforts with local community groups, the Village Plan can leverage existing community ties to garner support, participation, and feedback.

Additionally, local community groups often have a proven track record of delivering successful projects and initiatives. Their experience in mobilising resources, organising events, and driving community engagement can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. By tapping into this wealth of experience, the Plan can benefit from tried-and-true strategies for fostering community cohesion and achieving shared goals.

By fostering collaboration with these local community groups, the Village Plan gains not only expertise and resources but also the collective energy and commitment of the community itself. Together, they form a powerful alliance dedicated to realising the shared vision for a vibrant, thriving, and inclusive community.

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The statistics referenced in this Village Plan reflect the most current data available, extracted from the 2021 Census, and has been supported by analysis of the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measures for the area.

**3.1 Population**

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population of Greysteel was 1,418. This represents the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency figure obtained for the Greysteel settlement.

**3.2 Statistical Profile**

This analysis takes account of the key characteristics of the population residing in the ‘Benbradagh C’ Super Data Zone. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey.

It should be noted that the boundaries of these statistical zones vary from the boundaries of the NISRA Settlement area used to calculate the population figure presented at Chapter 3.1.

A map of a city

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Figure 4: Map of ‘Benbradagh C’ Super Data Zone, (Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)

**3.3 Age Profile**

The population of Greysteel has an age profile that is in line with the Benbradagh DEA averages, but which is also slightly more youthful than Council and National averages, as evidenced by the composition of the village in terms of its age profile as seen the below table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Age 0-14 yrs** | **Age 15-39 yrs** | **Age 40-64 yrs** | **Age 65+ yrs** |
| Greysteel / Benbradagh C | 21% | 31% | 34% | 14% |
| Benbradagh DEA | 22% | 31% | 33% | 15% |
| Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area | 18% | 29% | 34% | 19% |
| Northern Ireland | 19% | 31% | 32% | 17% |

The 2021 Census indicates Greysteel’s population was almost evenly split between females (49%) and males (51%).

**Household Size**

The number of usual residents in the household on Census Day 2021 in Greysteel was:

* 1 person - 26%;
* 2 people - 32%;
* 3 people -19%;
* 4 people - 14%; and
* 5 people or more - 10%.

**Household Tenure**

On Census Day in Greysteel, 64% owned their house (includes shared ownership), 17% social rented, 17% private rented and 2% lived rent free.

**3.3 Religion and Ethnicity**

* Approximately 94% of the local population recorded their ‘Religion’ or ‘Religion brought up in’ as Roman Catholic, with 4% of the population recording Protestant or another Christian religion,
* 2% of village residents recorded no religious affiliation.
* 99% of village residents reported being from a white ethnic background.
* 94% of those living in the area were born in Northern Ireland.

**3.4 Health**

Census data showed Greysteel residents recorded slightly poorer levels of health and wellbeing when compared with regional and national averages. 76% of Greysteel residents report having either a ‘Very Good’ or ‘Good’ standard of general health compared to the Benbradagh DEA rate of 80%, the Causeway Coast & Glens rate of 77%, and the Northern Ireland national average of 79%.

Moreover, 73% of citizens note they are not limited by a long-term health problem or disability, a rate that is again lower than regional and national averages.

**3.5 Labour Market & Qualifications**

The 2021 Census compiled information relating to the economic status of those living in Greysteel, as well as a profile of skill and qualification level held. Whilst the area boasts an unemployment rate of just 4%, 43% of the population over the age of 16 are economically inactive in the village.

The skills profile of the local population is presented below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **No Qualifications** | **Level 1** | **Level 2** | **Level 3** | **Level 4+** | **Apprenticeship or Other** |
| Greysteel / Benbradagh C | 30% | 5% | 14% | 17% | 26% | 8% |
| Benbradagh DEA | 27% | 5% | 13% | 17% | 28% | 10% |
| Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area | 26% | 6% | 14% | 16% | 29% | 9% |
| Northern Ireland | 24% | 6% | 14% | 16% | 32% | 8% |

Analysis of the skills profile highlights Greysteel’s population has a higher rate of local people holding no Qualifications, as well as a lower rate of citizens obtaining a Level 4 and above qualification when compared to the DEA, Council and National averages.

**Industry of Employment**

In Greysteel on Census Day 2021, the classification of people aged 16 and over in employment by the industry they work in was as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Industry Classification** | **Percentage of Local Population** |
| Agriculture, energy & water | 3% |
| Manufacturing | 7% |
| Construction | 13% |
| Distribution, hotels & restaurants | 22% |
| Transport & communication | 9% |
| Financial, real estate, professional & administration | 9% |
| Public administration, education & health | 35% |
| Other | 3% |

**Number of Employee Jobs Based in Greysteel Ward**

According to the September 2022, Business Register & Employment Survery NI (BRES NI), the number of employee jobs based in the Greysteel ward excluding agriculture was as follows. An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 yrs+ that an organisation directly pays from its payroll.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of Employee Jobs Based In Greysteel** |
| 2022 | 477 |
| 2021 | 602 |
| 2020 | Not available due to Covid pandemic |
| 2019 | 376 |
| 2018 | Not available |
| 2017 | 312 |

**Car or Van Availability**

In Greysteel on Census Day the number of cars or vans that were owned, or available for use by members of a household (includes company cars & vans that are available for private use) was:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Car or Van Availability** | **Percentage of Local Population** |
| No cars or vans | 17% |
| 1 car or van | 41% |
| 2 cars or vans | 30% |
| 3 cars or vans | 9% |
| 4 cars of vans | 2% |
| 5 or more cars or vans | 1% |

**3.6 Deprivation Analysis**

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency published its findings in relation to the relative levels of deprivation facing communities across Northern Ireland. This analysis was carried out at a Super Output Area level, enabling detailed analysis of smaller populations to be carried out.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Greysteel population fell under the ‘Greysteel 1’ and ‘Greysteel 2’ Super Output Areas, which covered the village and surrounding areas. Key findings include:

* The two Super Output Areas (SOAs) fall consistently within the 30% most deprived communities in Northern Ireland across multiple measures, including Income Deprivation, Employment Deprivation, Skills Deprivation and Access to Services Deprivation.
* Income Deprivation is a common concern, with ‘Greysteel 2’ in particular falling amongst the 20% most disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland.
* Both SOAs face relatively high levels of Access to Services Deprivation, with Greysteel 1 ranking within the 25% most deprived areas for this indicator.

**3.7 Conclusions**

Overall, the socio-economic analysis has brought to the fore a range of key considerations that are relevant to the development of this Village Plan. Most saliently, there is a need to support the improvement of the skills profile of the local population, which currently falls far short of regional and national levels. There is also an ongoing identified need to address the social challenges brought about as a result of the village’s rurality and the overall provision of basic services.

# 4.0 CoA white background with black dots Description automatically generatedmmunity Engagement

**4.1 Consultation Phase 1: Setting Objectives & Gathering Data**

Causeway Coast and Glens Council facilitated the review and development of an updated Village Plan for Greysteel.

Phase 1 consisted of setting out a programme of works to finalise objectives and the consultation process required ensuring feedback from the community could be captured.

A comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the area was conducted to gain insights into the area’s demographics, economic dynamics, and social trends. The previous Village Plan from June 2018 was reviewed, which provided valuable insights into lessons learned and opportunities for improvement, ensuring continuity and building upon existing efforts.

The Vale Centre was engaged, as well as Councillor Dermot Nicholl, the lead partners in Greysteel, whose support has been appreciated in this process. A thorough site visit of Greysteel was conducted to understand the physical environment and infrastructure, further informing decision-making.

**4.2 Consultation Phase 2: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community**

Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. To ensure as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan, a range of consultation and engagement activities were undertaken, including:

* A site visit to the village on Tuesday, 30th January 2024.
* A consultation day, with two sessions (one during the day and one in the evening) held in The Vale Centre on Tuesday, 20th February 2024.
* An online survey, facilitated by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council between Friday, 2nd February and Friday, 1st March 2024.

A white and purple card with a blue and white horn

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*Figure 5: Social Media Graphic to Communicate Consultation Events*

Working closely with The Vale Centre and Councillor Nicholl, two consultation events were held to accommodate residents' diverse needs and schedules. Extensive promotion and outreach efforts were made through various channels, including direct email outreach, social media campaigns, and via council platforms, to encourage broad participation. As a result, members of the local community were engaged in either the afternoon drop-in session or evening focus group.

Consultations were structured to ensure comprehensive engagement and participation from the Greysteel community. Through this structured approach, consultations fostered inclusive dialogue, ensuring broad community voices and perspectives were incorporated into the Village Plan. Consultations included:

* A presentation on the Village Plan process, offering a brief overview of its significance, key objectives, and strategic context, with a Q&A session for clarifications.
* Engagement activities, including an area profile facilitated discussion, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific aspects of the Plan.
* A SWOT analysis activity, allowing participants to move between stations, providing input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Village Plan, with facilitators documenting responses on visual boards.
* An action planning session, encouraging participants to provide actionable ideas, with reference to the review of the previous Plan.
* Participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey, which was also made more broadly available for individuals to complete who were unable to attend an in-person consultation.

**4.3 Consultation Phase 3: Data Analysis & Draft Plan Development**

Following the stakeholder and community consultation, Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Council was also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

This comprehensive process successfully engaged the Greysteel community, gathered valuable input, and developed a Village Plan that reflects the aspirations and priorities of residents.

# A white background with black dots Description automatically generatedA white background with black dots Description automatically generated5.0 Key Findings

Through consultation, Greysteel was noted to be renowned for its friendliness and welcoming nature. An array of well-organised and capable community groups were also identified that operate for the wider benefit of the village.

The following key Community Assets were identified:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Commercial Assets** | **Community Assets** | **Youth Assets** |
| * Variety of Local Shops * Petrol Station | * Vale Centre * St Mary’s Faughanvale GAA Facilities * Greysteel Community Enterprise * Greysteel Community Association * Star of the Sea Boxing Club | * Primary School * Skill School * New Play Park * Messy Play at Kids Inn * Youth Club at Vale Centre |

Existing activities, services, and programmes identified by those living in the area include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Recreational Activities** | **Sporting Activities** | **Youth Activities** |
| * Walking Activities * Sober 6 Challenge * Dance & Drama | * Gaelic Sports * American Football * Soccer Training | * Youth Club |

**5.1 SWOT Analysis**

Consultation participants provided an insight into daily life in Greysteel, before identifying strengths and weaknesses of the local community, and potential opportunities and threats:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| **Community Capacity:** the local community association delivers valuable outreach programmes, such as Meals on Wheels.  **Sports:** the local GAA Club is noted to be thriving, encouraging participation in sports and wellbeing activities across all ages.  **Collaborative Working:** strong link between the local Primary School and the GAA Club, and a lot of programmes and activities are delivered collaboratively. | **COVID Recovery:** community life has not quite recovered since the COVID-19 pandemic. It is still difficult to engage with both young people and elderly residents.  **Childcare Provision:** lack of childcare services identified in the area, hindering opportunities for working parents.  **Housing:** there is an identified lack of affordable housing in the village.  **Cost of Living:** the impact of the cost-of-living crisis continues to be evident for residents.  **Collaboration:** although there is a good link between the local Primary School and GAA Club, there is a need to facilitate collaboration between other community organisations that are active in the village. |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| **Economic Development:** there are several empty business units at the local petrol station that could be used for the purposes of enterprise development.  **Facilities Upgrade:** the new play park will provide more leisure opportunities for young families with children. However, there is a need to upgrade and modernise the community facilities in the village. | **School Investment:** there is an identified need to invest in upgraded facilities at the local primary school.  **Funding:** Greysteel Community Association is in continual need of support for costs associated with running community activities and outreach, |

**5.2 Survey Findings**

To supplement the findings of the consultation exercises, residents were afforded the opportunity to provide their views and highlight priorities to inform the development of the Village Plan via an online survey. The survey was open from Friday, 9th February 2024 and closed on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Questions posed to respondents sought to obtain the following information and insights:

* Demographic profile of respondents, such as age and gender.
* The length of time they have been residents in the village.
* Perceptions of the village, and an assessment of the quality of amenities, including:
  + Overall cleanliness and village aesthetics.
  + Infrastructure and connectivity.
  + Crime and anti-social behaviour.
  + Standard of facilities and public assets.
  + Availability and variety of Commercial Outlets.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback in relation to their favourable aspects of living in the village, as well as their biggest challenges or concerns.

All questions were mandatory for all survey participants.

**Survey findings, and key emerging themes, are presented below:**

**5.2.1 Demographic Information**

* 38.9% of survey respondents were aged between 15 and 39.
* 61.1% of survey respondents were aged between 40 and 64.
* No survey respondents were aged 14 and under, or 65 and over.

Survey responses represent an equal gender split of 50% male and 50% female.

Except for one respondent, all survey participants stated they are residents of Greysteel. The single respondent who was not a resident provided a postcode in Eglinton, just three miles away.

Most respondents (83.3%) noted they had lived in the village for over ten years. Just one respondent noted they had recently moved to the area within the last three years.

**5.2.2 Quality of Life**

Perceptions of the village amongst survey respondents were generally positive, with just 22.2% stating their perception of the village was ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’.

Most respondents stated on a Likert scale of 1-10, with 1 being least favourable and 10 being most favourable, they would be likely to recommend the village to others, with an average score of 6.1

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on a range of aspects relating to life in the village. A summary of responses provided is presented below:

| **Aspect of Everyday Life** | **Commentary** |
| --- | --- |
| **Cleanliness of Streets** | The prevailing opinion was that the cleanliness of the streets is ‘Acceptable,’ with 72.2% of respondents selecting this option. |
| **Condition of Streets** | Responses noted this as an area for improvement, with 55.5% stating the condition of the streets as either ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. Just 38.9% of respondents felt the condition of the streets is acceptable. |
| **Accessibility** | Accessibility in the village was highlighted as an area for improvement, with 50% of respondents citing the overall standard as being either ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Pedestrian Friendly** | Responses indicate that, overall, the village meets the basic standards of pedestrian friendliness, with 72.2% of respondents stating it is ‘Acceptable’, ‘Good’, or ‘Very Good’. |
| **Availability of**  **Public Transport** | Respondents were ambivalent about the frequency and accessibility of public transport. The most common response was that availability of public transport was ‘Acceptable’ (38.9%). |
| **Traffic Congestion** | Traffic congestion was an aspect of life in the village that was identified as being in particular need of addressing, with 66.7% of respondents highlighting it as ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Street Lighting** | Street lighting was considered by survey respondents as being adequate, with 38.9% stating it is ‘Acceptable’. |
| **Availability of**  **Car Parking** | Car parking was not identified by survey respondents as a key issue. Half of respondents believe the availability of parking to be ‘Acceptable’. A further 22.2% believe there to be ‘Good’ availability. 27.8% of respondents consider parking to be ‘Poor’. |
| **Village Signage** | A mixed response was received in relation to signage in the village, with 44.4% of respondents stating signage is ‘Acceptable’, the most common single response. |
| **Open Space** | Open space in Greysteel is widely regarded to be sub-standard, with 66.7% of respondents stating this aspect of the village is ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Play Park** | The quality of the play park was almost unanimously deemed to be ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Sports Facilities** | One very positive aspect that emerged from the survey is the quality of sporting facilities, with 66.7% of respondents stating they are either ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. |
| **Community Centre** | A mix of responses were received, with the most prevailing sentiment being that The Vale Centre’s amenities were ‘Acceptable’. 33.3% of respondents indicated they believe the facilities to be ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’ and a further 27.8% stating they are ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Anti-Social Behaviour**  **(ASB)** | Anti-social behaviour was identified as a potential cause for concern in Greysteel, with 44.4% of respondents citing they believe levels to be ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Vandalism** | Similarly, vandalism was highlighted as a potential issue, with half of respondents noting levels of vandalism are ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Littering** | Littering was identified as a challenge in Greysteel, with 61.1% of respondents noting litter in the village is either ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Derelict Buildings** | A mixed response was received:   * 33.3% of respondents stated ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. * 38.9% of respondents stated ‘Acceptable’. * 27.8% of respondents stated ‘Poor’. |
| **Friendliness of People** | This was the most positive aspect of the survey, with an overwhelming majority of 88.8% believing the friendliness of local people was either ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. 83.3% also felt the atmosphere in the village is either ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. |
| **Shops** | A mixed response was received in relation to quality:  38.9% of respondents stated ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’.  27.8% of respondents stated ‘Acceptable’.  33.3% of respondents stated ‘Poor’.  However, more negative sentiments were expressed in relation to the variety of shops, with most respondents (55.6%) stating this is ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Eateries** | The overall perception of cafés and takeaways was negative, with 61.1% of respondents stating ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |

**5.2.3 Favourite Aspect of Living in Greysteel**

Respondents were given the opportunity to state what they feel is the best thing about living in the area. Some of the most notable responses included:

* *“The people are the best thing in the community. The GAA Club is the heart and soul of the area, providing a fantastic outlet for all ages. The Vale Centre put in a big effort to care for young people.”*
* *“I work in a local school and feel that Greysteel has a wonderful community spirit.”*

Overall, the community spirit in the area was commonly identified as ahighlight, as was the quality of services provided by the GAA Club. The village’s convenience to both Limavady and Derry/Londonderry was considered an asset.

**5.2.4 Key Issues To Be Addressed**

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on what they believe to be the highest priority issues to be addressed in the village. The most salient responses included:

* Infrastructural concerns, such as traffic congestion, road repairs, and lack of public transport.
* Limited provision of facilities or services for young people.
* Investment in green and open spaces, including the development of a play park.
* Attracting businesses to the area.
* The cost-of-living crisis.

Respondents were asked to choose their top three priorities for Greysteel. No individual category received over 50% of responses. However, the most common responses were:

* Activities for children and young people (38.9%).
* Access to basic services e.g., bank, pharmacy, etc. (33.3%).
* Road and Infrastructure (33.3%).

# 6.0 Action Plan

Following the completion of all research and consultation activities, the priorities for the Greysteel Village Plan are summarised below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Theme** | **Description** | **Why is it needed?** |
| **Community Collaboration** | Establishment of a Community Forum. | There is an identified lack of integration amongst the community groups, clubs, and associations. There is also a need to improve communication and build greater respect for each other’s efforts. |
| **Communication** | Improved advertising of community activities. | There is a need to ensure that all groups and residents are aware of events. Improved communication will help local people be made aware of volunteering opportunities and opportunities to meaningfully engage in community life. |
| **Community Pride** | Provision of additional/replacement public litter bins and addressing issues of dog fouling. | There is an overall need to foster increased community pride, as the village has been identified as becoming untidy. |
| **Maximising Potential of Natural Assets** | Rejuvenation of the Glen in Greysteel. | The Glen is underused because of poor car parking facilities and overgrown hedges. There is scope for the Glen to become an important green space in the village and would open up further opportunities in terms of attracting visitors. |
| **Signage** | Improving the quality and visibility of signage throughout the village. | There is a need to ensure that locals and visitors alike are fully aware of the public facilities in the village. |
| **Cultural Awareness** | Promotion of traditional culture and heritage activities. | There is a need to foster greater awareness of local history, music, language, and dance traditions within the local population. |
| **Play Park** | Creation of play park for the village | There is a need to increase access to basic amenities in the village |
| **Health & Wellbeing** | Establishment of a Men’s Shed in the village. | The need has been identified for a Men’s Shed in the village to reduce isolation and loneliness and contribute towards improved mental health amongst local men. |
| **Sustaining Local**  **Childcare Provision** | Widening the opportunities and programming for Greysteel Playschool. | At present the playschool is facing potential closure challenges due to the low number of children attending. The main contributor is smaller numbers of children being born in each family. |
| **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour** | Addressing social issues of anti-social behaviour, as well as drug and alcohol abuse. | There have been identified ongoing challenges throughout the village in relation to anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. |

# 7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan

To see the range of priority actions addressed for the benefit of those living in Greysteel, the following implementation plan has been developed which sets out further detail in relation to the key responsible owners of each action, and the key milestones which would need to be reached.

| **Theme** | **Action** | **Key Activities & Milestones** | **Timeframes** | **Responsible Owners** | **Supporting Partners** | **Potential Funding Sources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Community Collaboration** | Establish a Community Forum. | Initial meeting of Community Forum.  Appoint office holders.  Agree on Forum purpose, remit, and frequency of meetings. | Within 6 months following finalisation of Village Plan. | Greysteel Community Association  Faughanvale GAC  Vale Centre | Other local community and voluntary organisations  Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council | N/A |
| **Communication** | Improve promotion and advertising of community activities. | Create community noticeboard.  Use social media platforms to promote and advertise community events and activities. | Within 6 months following finalisation of Village Plan. | Vale Centre  Greysteel Community Association  Faughanvale GAC | Other local community and voluntary organisations | N/A |
| **Community Pride** | Provide additional and/or replacement litter bins.  Address issues of dog fouling. | Organise periodic litter picks and community clean ups.  Install additional bins in the village, including dog fouling bins. | Within 12 months following finalisation of Village Plan. | Vale Centre  Greysteel Community Association  Faughanvale GAC | Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council | N/A |
| **Maximising Potential of Natural Assets** | Rejuvenate the Glen in Greysteel. | Secure funding for feasibility study to explore further uses and improvements. | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council | Vale Centre  Greysteel Community Association  Faughanvale GAC | Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council |
| **Signage** | Improve the quality and visibility of signage throughout the village. | Identify appropriate locations for new and upgrades signage.  Secure appropriate finance to implement signage upgrades. | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan | Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council | DfC | N/A |
| **Cultural Awareness** | Promote traditional culture and heritage activities. | Identify suitable delivery partners.  Organise and deliver additional cultural, language, music, and dance activities. | Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Vale Centre  Greysteel Community Association  Faughanvale GAC | Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council | Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council  PEACE Plus  Foras Na Gaelige  Ulster Scots Agency |
| **Play Park** | Creation of play park for the village | Development of technical specifications to create an accessible and user-friendly of play park at an appropriate site in the village.  Construction works to see new play park created. | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Local Political Representatives | Other local community organisations  Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council | Multiple – depending on nature and scale of capital development project |
| **Health & Wellbeing** | Establish a Men’s Shed in the village. | Establish a Committee to co-ordinate a Men’s Shed.  Identify suitable space to hold a Men’s Shed.  Develop and deliver Men’s Shed Programmes. | Within 18 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Vale Centre  Greysteel Community Association  Faughanvale GAC | Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council | Groundwork NI  Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council |
| **Sustaining**  **Local Childcare Provision** | Widen the opportunities and programmes for Greysteel Playschool. | Liaise with Department for Communities to understand any additional avenues of support.  Conduct a benchmarking exercise to understand the sustainability of similar facilities and identification of best practice. | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Education Authority | Local Community Organisations | N/A |
| **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour** | Address social issues of anti-social behaviour, as well as drug and alcohol abuse.  Establish a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. | Identify measures to tackle identified social issues, including liaison with statutory partners such as PSNI.  Develop action plan to implement identified measures | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Local elected representatives  Greysteel Community Association | Causeway Coast & Glens  Borough Council – PCSP  Local Community Organisations  PSNI | N/A |